

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1,3 – 7, 9 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 2 and 8 has been cancelled.

Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice in that the applicant traverses the rejection of these claims and may elect to refile them in a continuation application at a later date.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected as lacking antecedent basis for the limitation “polymerized matrix”. These claims have been amended accordingly. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected as being incomplete for omitting essential structural detail. This claim has been amended accordingly and now meets this requirement. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 – 7 were rejected as being unpatentable over Potyrailo in view of Schonfeld et al. Claims 1 and 7 were amended to include the limitations of cancelled claims 2 and 8, respectively. The Examiner had noted that these claims were allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C., second paragraph and included all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 7 were amended accordingly and are therefore allowable. In that the remaining claims depend from allowable claims, these claims are allowable as well.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment required by this paper to Deposit Account 502694.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Appl. No. 09/915,723
Amdt. Dated April 28, 2003
Reply to Official Action of October 27, 2003
Attorney File No6800-62473

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.B. Ritchie', with a stylized, flowing script.

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